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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRIEFING PAPER

U.S. - Peru Narcotics Control Efforts

Peru is the source of about half of the coca used to produce the world's supply of cocaine. The Belaunde government has committed itself publicly to dealing with this problem, with the objective of reducing coca production to levels needed to supply traditional domestic chewing, and legitimate pharmaceutical and flavoring markets. The majority of the illicit coca grown in Peru comes from the Upper Huallaga Valley northeast of Lima. This is not a traditional growing area, and the large bulk of the coca grown there is both of rela- tively recent origin and cultivated for conversion into coca paste or base for illegal export purposes.

As part of the intentionally coordinated approach to address the coca problem in the Upper Huallaga Valley, the Department of State's INM and AID signed complementary project agreements with the GOP in the fall of 1982 laying the basis for a coca control program and for an agricultural development program designed to give farmers alternative means of making a living. The INM program anticipates the expenditure of approximately $15 million in anti-narcotics grant assistance over a five year period, while the AID program consists of a total of $18 million in development grants and loans over the same period. For its part, the GOP has committed itself to a phased coca eradication effort which anticipates the complete elimination of all illicit coca from this key growing area by 1987.

On the enforcement side, INM helped the Peruvian Guardia Civil (police) to develop a semi-autonomous anti-narcotics unit (UMOPAR), headquartered in Tingo Maria, key population and commercial center of the Valley. Anti-narcotics assistance is also being provided to other key Peruvian institutions, such as the Peruvian Investigative Police as part of our efforts to improve that country's institutional ability to enforce its drug laws. In Fiscal Year 1983, INM has budgeted $1 million for such anti-narcotics assistance to Peru.

While, as noted, the GOP has committed itself at the highest levels to dealing with the coca problem, other domestic issues - such as the state of the ecomony and civil unrest - frequently occupy a higher position in the government's priority list. It is important that we use every opportunity to stress our hope that the GOP will continue to pursue its anti-narcotics efforts and to fulfill its international committments directed at gaining control over the coca problem.

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TALKING POINTS

- We share the GOP's concern about the serious negative impact of illicit drug production and recently adopted a Federal Strategy to deal with the problem in the United States.

- We appreciate the GOP's public commitment to narcotics control.

-We look forward to continued cooperation with the GOP in efforts to eliminate all excess production of coca within a reasonable period.

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U.S. - Peru Narcotics Efforts

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